Socialist Worker

C.P.S.U. MEMBERS:
Vote No to this sell-out deal!

CPSU members in the civil service are being asked to vote YES to a new deal on Grade Restructuring. This deal is meant to address the issue of low pay and follows years of negotiation culminating in industrial action earlier this year.

The action gave CPSU members a tremendous feeling of their strength as workers. But it was called off just as it was taking effect. Ruairi Quinn who had refused to negotiate at the outset was forced to announce the lifting of the embargo on recruitment.

Faced with widespread disruption the not so mighty Quinn began to back off. In particular, the threat to exams by Education staff and the IFA's fury over action in Agriculture showed that civil servants are a force to be reckoned with.

What a tragedy then that the CPSU executive threw away the momentum by suspending the action. Disgracefully this was done without consulting the members who first heard their dispute was off when they turned on the news.

John O'Dowd justified the retreat by saying that members had only voted to take action over the embargo which was now gone. But it was well known that the dispute was also designed to force the government's hand over grade restructuring. In any case the embargo has been lifted in name only.

Quinn still plans to scrap 570 jobs between now and July 1997. And that may only be the start of an annual shedding of jobs. The executive says it has not agreed to the 570 posts being done away with and that the issue will be taken up area by area. In effect the embargo is still in place but the strong national action has been broken up with branches being left to fight their own battles.

The deal should be rejected not for this reason alone but also because:

■ CA's will be regraded to and expected to perform the duties of CO's for pay increases amounting to between £3.26 and £6.48 before tax and PRSI.

■ Only 25% of CO's will be uplifted to SO - 75% will not and will have to make do with increases amounting to between £1.92 and £6.67 gross.
■ The same story applies to SO's with only 25% being uplifted. The real shock for SO's is that £2061 is being cut from the starting point of the scale. Nurses rejected a similar deal which would reduce their starting pay by £1,000. They have shown solidarity with each other despite their union recommending acceptance.
■ Paper Keepers will have to endure an examination in order to progress beyond the 13th point of the new clerical scale.
■ Typist's will lose their word processing allowance when they reach the max of the scale.
■ The increases will come with the added cost of total flexibility across the grades.

Above all you should vote NO because it is possible to win far more by returning to national industrial action. With Ireland assuming the EU presidency civil servants have a golden opportunity to put them under pressure. Imagine the power of pickets on Dublin Castle and all other Departments while this government is trying to impress the EU dignitaries.

Public sector workers in France showed last December how to wage a real fight when their huge strikes forced the prime minister Juppe to scrap his programme of cuts.

More recently German workers have shaken their government with a series of strikes and demonstrations.

Strike action by civil servants would inspire workers throughout the public sector who all face attacks on their jobs and conditions.

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

Workers in the civil service are facing attacks. In this they are like the rest of the public sector and other workers.

Tens of thousands of workers voted Labour and Democratic Left at the last election in the hope that these parties would defend their interests.

Instead Labour and D.L. have joined the right wing parties in putting the boot into working class living conditions.

We need a real alternative to the sell-outs of these parties. We need a working class party that fights in the unions, in the workplaes, in the communities for working class rights. We need a party that stands for genuine socialism. We in the Socialist Workers Party invite you to join with us in building that party.

If you would like to join us or find out more fill in the slip and return to PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel (01) 872 2682

Name _____

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